THE SECOND

part of Conny-catching.

Contayning the diſcouery of certaine wondrous Cooſenages, either ſuperficiallie paſt ouer, or vtterlie vntoucht in the firſt.

As the nature of
- The blacke Art,
- The Vincents Law.
- The Prigging Law,
- The Courbing Law,
- The Lifting Law,
- The Foiſt,
- The Nippe,
- Picking of lockes.
- Cooſenage at Bowls.
- Horſe ſtealing.
- Hooking at windows.
- Stealing of parcels
- The pickepocket.
- The cut purſe.

With ſundry pithy and pleaſant Tales worthy the reading of all eſtates, that are ennemics to ſuch baſe and diſhoneſt practiſes.

Mallem non eſſe quam non prodeſſe patriæ.

R. G.

LONDON.
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1591.

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THE SECOND PART
of Connie-catching.

In the original this leaf precedes the title-page

TO ALL YOONG GENTLEMEN,
marchants,citizens,apprentices,yeomen,
and plaine countrey farmers,
Health.

WHen *Sceuola*, Gentlemen, ſaw his natiue citie beſieged by Porſenna, and that Rome the miſtreſſe of the world was readie to be maiſtred by a profeſſed foe to the publicke eſtate: hee entred boldly into the enemies camp, and in the Tent of the king (taking him for the king) ſlew the kings Secretarie, whereupon condemned, brought to the fire, he thruſt his right hand into the flame burning it off voluntarie, becauſe it was ſo infortunat to miſſe the fatal ſtab he had intended to his coũtries enimies, and then with an honourable reſolution, breathd out this. *Mallem non eſſe quã non prodeſſe patriæ.* This inſtãce of *Sceuola* greatly hath emboldened mee to thinke no pains nor danger too great that groweth to the benefit of my countrie, & though I cannot as he mannadge with my courtlax, nor attempt to vnleager Porſenna: yet with my pen I will indeuour to diſplay the nature and ſecrets of diuers cooſenages more preiudiciall to England then the inuaſion of Porſenna was to Rome. For when that valiant king ſaw the reſolutiõ of *Sceuola*: as one diſmaid at the honour of his thoughtes, he ſorrowed ſo braue a man had ſo deſperatly loſt his hand, and thereupon grewe friends with the Romans. But gentlemen theſe Conny-catchers, theſe vultures, theſe fatall Harpies, that putrifie with their infections, this flouriſhing eſtate of England, as if they had their con-

ſciences ſealed with a hot iron, & that as men deliuered vp into a reprobate ſence, grace were vtterly exild from their harts, ſo with the deafe Adder they not only ſtop their eares againſt the voice of the charmer, but diſſolutely without any ſparke of remorſe ſtand vpon their brauados, and openly in words & actions maintain their palpable and manifeſt cooſenages, ſwearing by no leſſe then their enemies bloud, euē by God himſelfe, that they will make a maſſacre of his bones, and cut off my right hand for penning downe their abhominable practiſes: but alas for thē poore ſnakes, words are wind, & looks but glances: euery thunderclap hath not a bolt, nor euery Conny-catchers oath an execution. I liue ſtill, & I liue to diſplay their villanies, which, gentlemen you ſhal ſee ſet down in moſt ample maner in this ſmall treatiſe, but heere by the way, giue me leaue to anſwere an obiection, that ſome inferred againſt me, which was, that I ſhewed no eloquent phraſes, nor fine figuratiue conueiance in my firſt booke as I had done in other of my workes, to which I reply that τὸ πρέπον a certaine decorum is to bee kept in euerie thing, and not to applie a high ſtile in a baſe ſubiect beſide the facultie is ſo odious, and the men ſo ſeruile and ſlauiſh minded, that I ſhould diſhonor that high miſterie of eloquence, and derogate from the dignitie of our Engliſh toonge, eyther to employ any figure or beſtow one choyce Engliſh word vpon ſuch diſdained rakehels as thoſe Conny-catchers. Therefore humbly I craue pardon, and deſire I may write baſely of ſuch baſe wretches, who liue onely to liue diſhoneſtly. For they ſeeke the ſpoyle and ruine of all, and like droanes eate away what others labor for. I haue ſet downe diuers other laws vntoucht in the firſt, as their Vincents law, a notable cooſenage at bowles, when certain idle companions ſtand and make bettes, being compacted

with

with the bowlers, who looke like honeſt minded citizens, either to win or looſe, as their watch-worde ſhall appoint, then the Prigger or Horſeſtealer, with all his ginnes belonging to his trade, and theyr ſubtill cawtels to amend the ſtatute, next the curbing law, which ſome call but too baſely hookers, who eyther diue in at windows, or elſe with a hook, which they call a curb doe fetch out whatſoeuer, either apparell, linnen, or wollen, that be left abroad. Beſide I can ſet downe the ſubtiltie of the blacke Art, which is picking of lockes, a cooſenage as preiudiciall as any of the reſt, and the nature of the Lift, which is he that ſtealeth any parcels, and ſlily taketh them away. This (Gentlemen) haue I ſearcht out for your commodities, that I might lay open to the world, the villanie of theſe cooſening caterpillers, who are not onely abhorred of men, but hated of God, liuing idlely to themſelues, & odiouſly to the worlde, they be thoſe fooliſh children that Salomon ſpeakes of, that feedes themſelues fatte with iniquitie, thoſe vntamed heifers, that will not breake the yoke of labor, but get their liuinges by the painfull thrift of other mens hands. I cannot better compare them, then vnto Vipers, who while they liue are hated & ſhunned of all men as moſt preiudiciall creatures, they feed vpon hemlocke and Aconiton, and ſuch fatall & impoiſoned herbs, but the learned apothecaries takes them, cuts off their heades, and after they be imbowelled of their fleſh, they make the moſt pretious Mithridate: ſo theſe Conny-catchers, Foiſts, Nips, Priggars, & Lifts, while they liue are moſt improfitable members of the common-wealth: they glut themſelues as Vipers vpon the moſt lothſome, and deteſtable ſinnes, ſeeking after folly with greedineſſe, neuer doing any thing that is good, till they be truſt vp at Tiburn: and then is a moſt wholſome Mithridate made ofthē, for by their deaths

others are forewarned for falling into the like enormities. And as the Gangrena is a diſeaſe incurable by the cenſure of the Chirurgians, vnleſſe the member where it is fixt be cut off: ſo this vntoward generation of looſe Libertines, can by no wholſome counſailes, nor aduiſed perſwaſions be diſſwaded from their lothſom kind of life, till by death they be fatally, and finally cut off from the common-wealth, whereof ſpake *Ouid* well in his Metamorphoſis.

Immedicabile vulnus,
Enſe reſecandum eſt ne pars ſincera trahatur.

Sith then this curſed crue, theſe Machauilians, that neither care for God nor deuill, but ſet with the Epicures gaine, and eaſe, their *ſummum bonum* cannot be called to anie honeſt courſe of liuing: if the honorable and worſhipfull of this land looke into their liues, and cut off ſuch vpſtarting ſuckars that conſume the ſap from the roote of the Tree: they ſhall neither looſe their reward in heauen, nor paſſe ouer anie day wherein there wil not be many faithful praiers of the poore, exhibited for their proſperous ſucceſſe and welfare: ſo deepely are theſe monſtrous cooſeners hated in the common-wealth. Thus Gentlemen I haue diſcouered in briefe, what I meane to proſecute at large: though not eloquently, yet ſo effectually, that if you be not altoge ther careleſſe, it may redownd to your commoditie: forewarned, forearmed: burnt children dread the fire, and ſuch as neither counſaile, nor other mens harmes may make to beware, are worthie to liue long, and ſtill by the loſſe. But hoping theſe ſecrets I haue ſet abroach, and my labours I haue taken in ſearching out thoſe baſe villanies, ſhall not be onely taken with thankes, but applied with care: I take my leaue with this farewell. God either confound, or conuert ſuch baſe minded Cooſeners.

Yours R.G.

THE SECOND PART
of Conny-catching.

The diſcouery of the Prigging Law or nature of horſe ſtealing.

TO the effecting of this baſe villany of Prigging or horſe ſtealing, ther muſt of neceſſity be two at the leaſt, and that is the Priggar and the Martar. The Priggar is he that ſteales the horſe, and the Martar is he that receiues him, and chops and chaungeth him away in any Faire, Mart, or other place where any good vent for horſes is: and their methode is thus.

The Priggar if he be a Launce man, that is, one that is already horst, then he hath more followers with him, and they ride like Gentlemen, and commonly in the fourme of Drouers, & so coming into pasture grounds or inclosures, as if they ment to survey for Cattle, doe take an especiall and perfect view where Prankers or horses be, that are of worth, and whether they be trameld or no that is whether they haue horselocks or no, then lie they houering about till fit opportunity serue, and in the night they take him or them away, and are skilfull in the blacke Art, for picking open the tramels or lockes, and so make hast til they be out of those quarters. Now if the Priggars steale a horse in Yorkshire, commonly they haue vent for him in Surrey, Kent, or Sussex, and their Partars that receiue them at his hand, chops them away in some blind Faires after they haue kept them a moneth or two, till the hue and cry be ceast and past ouer. Now if their horse be of any great valure and sore sought after, and so branded or care markt, that they can hardlie sell him without extreame daunger, either they brand him with a crosse brand vpon the former, or take away his care mark, and so kæp him at hard meat til he be hole, or else sell him in Cornwall or Wales, if he be in Cumberland, Lincoln-shire, Northfolke or Suffolke, but this is if the horse bæ of great valour and worthy the kæping: Marry if he bee onely coloured and without brands, they will straight spotte him by sundry pollicies, and in a blacke horse, marke saddle spots, or starre him in the forehead and change his taile, which secretes I omit least I shoulde giue to great a light to other to practise such lewd villanies. But againe to our Launce men Priggars, who as before I said, cry with the Lapwing farthest from their nest and from their place of residence, where there most abode is, furthest from thence they steal their horses, and then in another quarter as farre of they make sale of them by the Partars meanes, without it be som

bal

base Priggar that steales of mere necessity, and beside is a Trailer. The Trailer is one that goeth on foote, but meanely attired like some plaine gran of the Countrey, walking in a paire of bootes without spurres, or else without bootes, hauing a long staffe on his necke, and a blacke buckram bag at his backe, like some poore Client that had some writing in it, and there he hath his saddle, bridle and spurs, stirhops and stirhop leathers, so quaintly and artificially made that it may bee put in the slop of a mans hose, for his saddle is made without any tree, yet hath both cantle & boulsters, only wrought artificially of cloth and bombast, with foulds to wrap vp in a short roome, his stirhops are made with vices and gins that one may put them in a paire of gloues, and so are his spurres, and then a little white leather headstal and raines with a small Scotish brake or snaffle, all so feately formde, that as I said before they may be put in a buckram bag. Now this Trailer he bestrides the horse which he priggeth, and saddles and bridles him as orderly as if he were his own, and then carries him far from the place of his brede, and there sels him. Oh will some man say, it is easier to steale a horse then to sell him, considering that her Maiesty and the honourable priuy Counsaile, hath in the last Act of Parliament made a strikt Statute for horse stealing, and the sale of horses, whose Prouiso is this: That no man may buy a horse vntould, nor the toule be taken without lawfull witnesses, that the party that selleth the horse is the true owner of him, vppon their oath and special knowledge, and that who buieth a horse without this certificate or prowfe, shall be within the natue of Fellony, as well as the party that stealeth him. To this I aunswere that there is no Act, Statute, nor Lawe so strickt conueyed, but there be straight found starting holes to auoide it, as in this. The Priggar when he hath stollen a horse and hath agreede with his Partar, or with any other his confederate, or with any honest person to sell the horse,

bringeth to the touler, which they call the rifler two honeſt men eyther apparelled like citizens, or plain countrey yeomen, and they not onely affirm, but offer to depoſe, that they knowe the horſe to be his, vpon their proper knowledge, although perhaps they neuer ſaw man nor horſe before, and theſe periurd knaues be commonly old knightes of the poſt, that are foiſted off from being taken for bale at the kings bench, or other places, and ſeeing for open periuries they are refuſed, there they take that courſe of life, and are wrongly called Querries, but it were neceſſarie and verie much expedient for the common-wealth, that ſuch baſe roagues ſhould be lookt into, and be puniſht as well with the pillorie, as the other with the halter. And thus haue I reuealed the nature of Priggars, or horſe-ſtealers briefly, which if it may profit, I haue my deſire, but that I may recreate your mindes with a pleaſant hiſtorie, marke the ſequeale.

A pleaſant ſtorie of a horſe-ſtealer.

NOt farre off from Tenro in Cornewall, a certaine Priggar, a horſe-ſtealer being a lanceman, ſurueying the paſtures thereaboutes, ſpied a fayre blacke horſe without any white ſpot at all about him, the horſe was ſo faire and luſtie, wel proportioned, of a high creſt, of a luſty countenance, well buttockt, and ſtrongly truſt, which ſet the Priggars teeth a water to haue him: well he knew the hardeſt happe was but a halter, and therefore hee ventered faire, and ſtoll away the prancer: and ſeeing his ſtomack was ſo good as his limmes, he kept him well, and by his pollicie ſeared him in the forehead, and made him ſpotted in the backe, as if he had been ſaddle bitten, and gaue him a marke in both eares, whereas he had but a mark in one. Dealing thus with his horſe, after a quarter of a yeare, that all hurly burly was paſt for the horſe, hee

came

came riding to Tenro to the market, and there offered him to be sold, the Gentleman that lost the horse, was there present, and looking on him with other Gentlemen, likte him passing well, and commended him: insomuch that he bet the prise of him, bargained, & bought him: and so when he was tould, and that the horsestealer clap him good lucke: Well my friend quoth the gentleman, I promise thee I like the horse the better, in that once I lost one as like him as might be, but that mine wanted these saddle spots, and this starre in the forehead. It may be so sir, said the Priggar, and so the Gentleman and he parted: the next day after, he caused a letter to be made, and sent the Gentleman word that he had his horse againe that he lost, onely he had giuen him a mark or two, and for that he was wel rewarded, hauing twentie marke for his labour. The gentleman hearing how he was cosened by a horse-stealer, and not onely robd, but mockt, let it passe till he might conueniently meete with him to reuenge it. It fortuned not long after, that this lanceman Priggar was brought to Tenro Gayle for some such matter, and indeede it was about a Mare that he had stolne: but as knaues haue friends, especially when they are well monied, he found diuers that spake for him, and who saide it was the first fault: and the party plaintife gaue but slender euidence against him, so that the iudge spake fauourably in hys behalfe: the gentleman as then sat in the bench, and calling to minde the Priggars countenance, howe hee had stolne his horse and mockt him, remembred hee had the letter in his pocket that he sent him, and therefore rising vp, spake in his behalf, and highly commended the man, and desired the iudges for one fault he might not be cast away, and besides, may it please you (quoth hee) I had this morning a certificate of his honestie and good behauiour sent me, and with that he deliuered them the letter, and the iudge and the rest of the bench smiled at this conceite, and askt the fellow if he neuer stoll a horse

from that Gentleman: no quoth the Priggar, I knew him not: your honors mistakes me, said the gentleman he did but borrow a blacke horse of me, and markt him with a stare in the forehead, and askt twenty marke of me for his labour, and so discourst the whole matter: whereupon the quest went vpon him, and condemned him: and so the Priggar went to heauen in a string, as many of his facultie had done before.

The Vincents law, with the discouery therof.

THe Vincents Law is a common deceipt or cosenage vsed in Bowling-allies amongest the baser sort of people, that commonly haunt such leud and vnlawfull places: for although I will not discommend altogether the nature of bowling, if the time, place, persons, and such necessary circumstaunces be obserued: yet as it is now vsed, practised & suffred, it groweth altogether to the maintenãce of vnthrifts that idlely and disorderly make that recreation a cosenage. Nowe the manner and forme of their deuise is thus effected: the Bawkers, for so are the common haunters of the Alley termed, apparelled like very honest and substantial citizens come to bowle, as though rather they did it for sport then gains, & vnder that colour of carelesnes, doe shadow their pretended knauery: well to bowles they goe, and then there resort of all sortes of people to beholde them, some simple men brought in of purpose by som cosening companions to be stript of his crownes, others, Gentlemen or Marchants, that delighted with the sport, stand there as beholders to passe away the time: amongst these are certaine olde lokers, which are lokers on, and listen for bets either euen or odde, and these are called grypes: and these fellows will refuse no lay if the ods may growe to their aduantage, for the Gripes and the Bawkers are confederate, and their fortune at play euer sorts according as the Gripes haue placed their bets, for the Bawker

ker he marketh how the laies goes, and so throes his casting: so that note this, the bowlers cast euer booty, and doth win or lose as the bet of the Gripe doth lead them, for suppose seauen be vppe for the game, and the one hath three and the other none, then the vincent, for that is the simple man that stands by & is not acquainted with their cosenage, nor doth so muchas once imagine that the Bawkers that carry such a countenaunce of honest substantiall men, would by any meanes, or for any gaines be perswaded to play booty. Well this vincent, for so the Cosoners or Gripes please to terme him seeing three to none, beginneth to offer ods on that side that is fairest to win: what ods saies the gripe? three to one saies the vincent, no saies the Gripe it is more, and with that they come to foure for none, then the vincent offers to lay four to one, I take six to one saies the Gripe, I lay it saies the vincent, and so they make a bet of some six crownes, shillings, or pence as the vincent is of ability to lay, & thus will sundry take their ods of him: well then, the Bawkers go forward with their bowles, and winne another cast which is fiue, then the vincent grows proud, & thinks both by the ods and goodnes of the play, that it is impossible for his side to lose, and therfore takes and lais bets freely, then the Bawkers fortune begin to change, and perhaps they come to three for fiue, and stil as their luck changes, diuersitie of bets growes on, til at last it comes to fiue and fiue, and then the Gripe comes vpon the vincent and offers him ods, which if the vincent take he loseth al, for vpon what side the Gripe laies, that side euer winnes how great soeuer the ods bee at the first in the contrary part, so that the cosenage growsin playing bootie, for the Gripe and the Bawker meet at night, & there they share what soeuer tearmage they haue gotten, for so they call the money that the poore vincent loseth vnto them: Now to shadow the matter the more, the bawker that winnes and is afore-hand with the game will lay franckely that hee shall win, and will bet hard and lay

great ods, but with whom, either with them which play with him that are as crafty knaues as himselfe, or els with the Gripe, and this makes the poore vincent stoope to the blow, and to loose all the money in his purse: Besides, if any honest men that holdes themselues skilful in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bawkers, if they feare to haue the worse or suspect the others play to be better then theirs, then they haue a tricke in watering of the alley to giue such a moisture to the banke, that hee that offers to strike a bowle with a shoare, shal neuer hit it whilst he liues, because the moisture of the bank hinders the proportion of his aiming. Diuers other practises there are in bowling tēding vnto cosenage, but the greatest is booty, and therefore would I wish al men that are carefull of their coine, to beware of such cosoners, and non to come in such places, where a haunt of such hel-rakers are resident, & not in any wise to stoope to their bets, least hee bee made a vincent, for so manifest and palpable is their cosenage, that I haue seen men ston-blind offer to lay bets frankly, although they can see a bowle come no more then a post, but onely hearing who plaies, and howe the olde Gripes make their laies: seeing then as the game is abused to a deceit, that is made for an honest recreation, let this litle be a caueat for men to haue an insight into their knauery.

THE

A Table of the Lawes contayned in this ſecond part.

1 Blacke arte. {Picking of lockes.

2 Courbing Law. {Hooking at windowes.

3 Vincents Law. {Cooſenage at Bowls.

4 Prigging Law. {Horſe ſtealing.

5 Lifting Law. {Stealing of any parcels.

The diſcouery of the wordes of Art vſed in theſe Lawes.

In blacke Art.

{The Pickelocke, is called a Charme.
{He that watcheth, a Stond.
{There engins, VVreſters.
{Picking the lock, Farſing.
{The gaines gotten, Pelfrey.

In Courbing Law.

{He that hooks, the Courber.
{He that watcheth, the VVarpe.
{The hooke, the Courbe.
{The good, Snappings.
{The gin to open the windowe, the Trickar.

In Lifting Law.
- He that firſt ſtealeth, the Lift.
- He that receiues it, the Markar.
- He that ſtandeth without and carries it away, the Santar.
- The goods gotten, Garbage.

In Vincents Law.
- They which play booty, the Bankars.
- He that betteth, the Gripe.
- He that is coofend, the Vincent.
- Gaines gotten, Termage.

In Prigging Law.
- The horſe ſtealer, the Priggar.
- The horſe, the Prancar.
- The towling place, All-hallowes.
- The towler, the Rifler.
- The ſuerteis, Querris.

For the Foiſt and the Nip, as in the firſt Booke.

THE SECOND PART of Conie-catching.

THe profeſſours of this Law, beeing ſomewhat daſht, and their trade greatlie impouerished by the late editions of their ſecret villanies, ſéeke not a newe meanes of life, but a newe methode how to fetch in their Connies and to play their prancks: for as grœuous is it for them to let ſlippe a Countrey farmer come to the tearm that is well apparelled, and in a dirtie pair of boots (for that is a token of his newe comming vp, and a

full purſe) as it was for the boyes of Athens to let Diogenes paſſe by without a hiſſe. But the country men hauing had partly a caueat for their cosenage, feare their fauorable ſpeeches and their courteous ſalutations, as deadlie as the Crakes did the whiſtle of Poliphemus. The Conie-catcher now no ſooner commeth in company, and calleth for a paire of cards, but ſtraight the poore Conie ſmokes him, and ſaies: maiſters, I bought a booke of late for a groate that warnes me of Card-play, leaſt I fall amongſt Conie-catchers: What, doeſt thou take vs for ſuch, ſaies the Verſer? no Gentlemen ſaies the cony, you may bee men of honeſt diſpoſition, but yet pardon me, I haue forſworne cards euer ſince I read it: at this replie God wot, I haue many a coſening curſe at theſe Connie-catchers handes, but I ſolempnly ſticke to the old prouerbe: the Fore the more he is curſt, the better hee fares: but yet I will diſcouer ſome of their neweſt deuiſes, for theſe caterpillers reſemble the nature of the Syrens, who ſitting with their watching eies vpon the rockes to allure Sea-paſſengers to their extreame preiudice, ſound out moſt heauenlie melodie in ſuch pleaſing cords, that who ſo liſtens to their harmony, lends his eare vnto his owne bane and ruine: but if anie warie Ulliſſes paſſe by and ſtop his eares againſt their inchauntments, then haue they moſt delightfull iewels to ſhewe him, as glorious obiectes to inueagle his eie with ſuch pleaſant vanities, that comming more nie to beholde them, they may daſh their ſhippe againſt a rocke and ſo vtterly periſh. So theſe Conie-catchers, for that I ſmoakt them in my laſt booke, and laid open their plots and policies, wherewith they drew poore Connies into their haie, ſeeking with the

Dzafors

Orators Beneuolentiam captare, and as they vse rethoricall tropes and figures, the better to drawe their hearers with the delight of varietie: so these moathes of the Common-wealth, apply their wits to wrap in wealthy farmers with straunge and vncoth conceits. Tush, it was so easie for the Setter to take vppe a Connie before I discouered the cosenage that one stigmaticall shamelesse companion amongst the rest, would in a brauerie were parsly in his hat, and said he wanted but Aqua vitæ to take a Connie with, but since he hath lookt on his fæt, and baled his plumes with the Peacocke, and sweares by all the shoes in his shop, I shall be the next man hee meanes to kill, for spoyling of his occupation: but I laugh at his brauadoes, and though he speaks with his Enuches voice, and weares a long sworde like a morrice pike, were it not I thinke hee would with Batillus hang himselfe at my inuectiue, his name should bee set downe with the nature of his follies: but let him call himselfe home from this course of life and this cosenage, and I shall bee content to shadow what he is with pardon, but frō this degression againe to the double diligence of these Connie-catchers, whose new sleights, because you shall the more easily perceiue, I will tell you a story pleasant and worth the noting.

A pleasant tale of the Connie-chatchers.

NOt long since, certaine Exceter marchants came vp to London to traffick such wares as their Citty commodities affords, & one of them whose name I conceale called maister F. hauing leasure at will, walked about

the Citie to visite his friendes, and by chance mette with two or three conny-catchers: amongst whome was one of his old and familiar acquaintance. This gentleman at that time taking the Setters office vpon him seeing such a fat Connie so fit for his purpose began to pitch his haie with this courteous and clawing gratulation. What maister F. (quoth he) welcome to London, and well are you mette; I see time may draw friends together, little did I thinke to haue seene you here, but sith opportunitie hath granted me such a fauour to meete with such an vnlokt-for man, wele at the next Tauerne drinke a pint of wine together, to your welcome, and the health of our friendes. The Marchant hearing the gentleman ply him with such plausible entertainment: stoopt as a pore Connie, and granted to take his courtesie, and with them went the Verser, a lustie fellow, well apparelled, and as smoth tonged as if euery woorde came out of an Orators inckhorne: this iolly squire that plaied the Verser, when hee came at the Tauerne doore, would needs drop away, and offered to be gone: but the Setter said to him, nay I pray you sir stay, and drink with this friend of mine, for I haue not a more familiar acquaintance in Exeter: The Marchant simply also intreated him, and with few woordes he was satisfied, and as three of them went in together, and asked for a roome, the boy shewed them vp into a chamber, and assoone as they came to the Verser, hauing a payre of Cardes in his pocket, for they thought it too suspitious to call for a payre, stept to the window, and clapt his hand on the ledge, and laught, Gogs wounds (quoth he) a man can neither come into Tauerne, nor Alehouse, but he shall find

a payre

a payre of Cardes in the window: Here hath bene some praying, and haue left their bookes behinde them. Boy (quoth he) throw me a couple of fagots on the fire, and set a pottle of Secke to, and burne it, and sir he sayes to the Setter, thou and I will play at Cardes who shall pay for it. Content saies the Setter, so you will plaie at a game that I can play at, which is called Mum-chance. I knowe it well, saies the Merser: haue with you for a pottle of burnt Secke, and so to it they go, as before in my first part I describe it vnto you: the poore Marchant the simple honest Connie, calling the Card, well the Merser lost, and at last they reueale the pollicie to the Conny, who wondered at the strange deuise, and solemnly swore it was impossible for him eyther to lose, or the other to winne: As thus they sat drinking the Setter shewed him diuers trickes at Cardes, to passe away the time, because they? Barnacle staied ouer long, who at last, attired like a Seruing-man, came and thrust open the doore, and saide, maisters by your leaue, I looke for a greyhound that hath broken my slip, & is run into this house. In faith friend, quoth the Setter, here is none, nor did we see any: Then by your leaue gentlemen (quoth he) and sit you merrie, I had rather haue giuen fortie shillinges then haue lost the dog: Nay staie sir (quoth the Merser) and drinke a cup of Secke with vs: at that the Barnacle came in, and courteously tooke it of them, and made sore lament for his dogge, saying, he durst scarse looke his maister in the face: but I hope (quoth he) he is run to the farmers house, where hee was brought vp, and therefore Ile seeke him no where to day, with that he called for a pint of wine, to requite they?

courteſies withall, and the Merſer anſwered that they would take none of him as a gift, but if he would play for a pint or a quart hee ſhould be welcome into their companie: at this he ſate down, and ſaid hee woulde, then they induced him to play at mum-chance, and the Conny cald the Card, ſo the Barnacle loſt all, who being in a great chafe, curſt his lucke, and the Cards, and offered to play three games, xii. pence: the Setter tooke him vp, and ſecretly aſkt the Cony if he would be his half, or play with him himſelfe. In faith ſaies the marchant, I dare play with him, as long as fiue ſhillinges laſt, and ſo much I will venter: with that the Barnacle drew out a purſe with ſome three or foure pence in it, and to this game they go, with vie and reuie till the Barnacle had loſt all his money, then hee blaſphemed the name of God mightily, and laide his ſword and his cloke to pawne to the good man of the houſe, and borrowed money of it, to the value of ſome xx. ſhillings. The Conny ſmiled at this for he counted all his own, & winkt vpon the Merſer, and the Setter, againe they go to it, and they make fiue games for ten ſhillinges, and euery Card to be vied at the loſers pleaſure, the Conny wonne three of them, and the Barnacle neuer a one: then he exclaimed againſt Fortune, and ſwore hee woulde make ſhort worke, and of a ring he borrowed thirtie ſhillings more, and vied hard: wel that game he won, and got ſome twentie ſhillinges of the Conny, who thought it was but a chance, that coulde not hit in ſeuen yeares againe, and the next game they vied, and laied ſome fiue pound by on the belt, ſo that the vie and call, came to ſome ſeuen pound, then the Barnacle ſtroke in his chopt Card, and wipe the

Connies

Connies mouth cleane for trobling his purse, with any of those crowns, yea he so handled ỹ poore marchaunt, that of nine pound he had in his purse, these three base Conny-catchers left him neuer a penny, although he was sore nipt on the head, with this hard Fortune, yet he brookt it with patience, and little suspected that his Countrey man the Setter had sifted him out of his money, and therefore drunke to him friendly, and toke his leaue without smoaking them at all, and went quiet though discontent to his lodging. The Conny-catchers they shard the purchase, and went singing home as winners doe that haue leaue and leisure to laugh at the spoile of such wealthie and honest marchants. Not long after this, the cony chanced to come to my chamber to visit me for old acquaintance, where he found a book of Cony-catching new come out of the presse which when he had smilde at, for the strangenesse of the title: at last he began to reade it, and there saw how simplie hee was made a conny, and stript of hys crownes: with that he fetcht a great sigh, and sayd: sir, if I had seene this booke but two dayes since, it had saued me nine pound in my purse, and then hee rehearst the whole discourse, howe kindly hee was made a conny. Thus you may see that these base conny-catchers spare not their owne acquaintance nor familiar friends: but like Vultures seek to pray vpon them, and like the Harpie, infectes that house wherein they harbour: so odious is their base and detestable kind of cosenage, that the very Nips, the cut-purses I meane, desire to smoake them, and haue them in as great contempt, as they themselues are despised of others: holding the conny-catcher for their inferiour: for say the Nips I disdaine to vse

my occupation againſt any friend, or to drawe a purſe from him that I am familiarly acquainted with: whereas the conny-catcher praieth moſte vpon his countreymen and friendes, and at the firſt hand comes with a ſmiling face to embrace that man, whome preſently he meanes to ſpoyle and cooſen. Againe, the Nip vſeth his knife, and if he ſée a Young lie faire, ſtrikes the ſtroke, and venters his necke for it if he be taken, which is a certaine point (ſay they) of reſolution, though in the baſeſt degrée: but the conny-catcher, like a coward kéepes himſelf within compaſſe of lawe, as the picture of a faint hearted cooſener: like a fawning curre wagges hys tayle vppon him, hee meanes moſt deadly to bite. then let this be a caueat for all men, and all degrées to take héede of ſuch preiudiciall peſants: who like wormes in a nut eat the kernell, wherein they are bred, and are ſo venemous minded, that like the Viper they deſparage whomſoeuer they light on: I know I ſhall haue many braues vttered againſt me for this inuectiue: but ſo I may profit my countrimen I will hazard my ſelfe againſt their déepeſt villanies: and therefore ſléeping neuer a whit the worſe for their brauado, I commit ſuch enemies of the flouriſhing Eſtate of England, to the conſideration of the Iuſtices: who I hope will looke into the looſe life of bad, baſe, and diſhoneſt caterpillers.

A pleaſant

A pleaſant Tale of a Horſe, how at Vxbridge, hee cooſened a Conny-catcher, and had like to brought him to his Neckuerſe.

IT fortuned that not long ſince certaine Conny-catchers met by hap a Prancar or horſ-ſtealer at Vxbridge, who took vp his inne wher thoſe honeſt cruel lodged, & as one vice follows another, was as redy to haue

a cast at cardes as he had a hazard at a horse, the Conny-catchers who supt with him, feeling him pliãt to receiue the blow, began to lay the plot how they might make him stope all the money in his purse, & so for a pint of wine drew him in at cards, by degrees as these rakehels do, Lento gradu, measure all things by minutes, he fell from wine to money, and from pence to pounds, that hee was stript of all that euer he had, as well Crownes, apparell, as Iewels, that at last to maintain the main and to checke dice with reuies he laide his horse in the hazard and lost him, when the Priggar had smoakt the game, and perceiued he was bitten of all the bite in his bung, and turned to walke penyless in Parke lane, as the old prouerbe is, he began to chafe, and to sweare, and to rap out goggs Nownes, and his pronouns, while at voluntarye he had sworne through the eight parts of speech in the Accidence, auowing they had cosened him both of his money and horse. Whereuppon the grosse Asse more hardy then wise, vnderstanding the Conny-catchers were gone, went to the Constable and made hue & cry after them, saying: They had robbe him of his horse, at this the head Boroughs followed amaine, and by chaunce met with an other hue and cry that came for him that had stollen, which hue and cry was serued vpon the horse stealer, and at that time as farre as I can either coniecture or calculate, the Conny catchers were taken suspicious for the same horse, and the rather for that they were found lose liuers & could yeeld no honest methode or meanes of their maintenance, vppon this for the horse they were apprehended, & bound ouer to the Sessions at Westminster, to aunswer what

might

might be obiected against them in her maiesties behalf. Well the horse stealer brake from his kœpers and got away, but the rest of the rascall crue, the Conny-catchers I mean, were brought to the place of iudgement, and there like valiaunt youths they thrust twelue men into a corner, who founde them guiltlesse for the fact, but if great fauor had not bin showen they had ben condemned & burnt in the eares for rogues. Thus the horse stealer made hue & cry after the Conny catchers, and the man that had lost the horse he pursued the horse stealer, so that a double hue and cry passed on both sides, but the Cony-catchers had the worse, for what they got in the bridle they lost in the saddle, what they cosened at cardes had like to cost them their necks at the Sessions, so that when they were frée and acquited, one of the Conny catchers in a merry vaine, said, he had catcht many Connies, but now a horse had like to caught him, and so dœpely quoth he, that Miserere mei had like to haue bœne my best mattins. Thus we may see Fallere fallentem non est fraus, euery deceipt hath his due, he that maketh a trap falleth into the snare him selfe, and such as couet to coosen all, are most them selues often times almost to the crosse, and that is the next neighbor to the gallows. Well Gentlemen thus I haue bewraied much and gotten little thankes, I mean of the dishonest sort, but I hope such as measure vertue by hir honours, will iudge of me as I deserue. Marry the good men Conny-catchers, those base excrements of dishonesty, they in their huffes report they haue got one ( ) I will not bewray his name, but a scholler they say he is, to make an inuective against me, in that he is a fauourer of those base reprobates, but

let them, him, and all know, the proudeſt peaſant of them all, dare not lift his plumes in diſparagement of my credit, for if he doe, I will for reuenge onely appoint the Iakes farmers of London, who ſhall caze them in their filthy veſſelles, and carrye them as dung to manure the barrain places of Tibourne, and ſo for Conny-catchers an end.

A diſcourſe, or rather diſcouery of the Nip and the Foiſt, laying open the nature of the Cut-purſe and Picke-pocket.

NOw Gentlemen, Marchants, Farmers, and termers, yea who ſoeuer he be, that vſeth to carrie money about him, let him at-

ten-

tentiuely heare what a peece of newe fond Philoſophie, I will lay open to you whoſe opinions, principles, Aphoriſmes, if you carefully note and retain in memorie, perhappes ſaue ſome crownes in your purſe ere the yeare paſſe, and therefore thus: The Nip & the foiſt, although their ſubiect is one which they worke on, that is, a well lined purſe, yet their manner is different, for the Nip vſeth his knife, and the Foiſt his hand: the one cutting the purſe, the other drawing the pocket: but of theſe two ſeruile trades, the Foiſt holdeth himſelfe of the higheſt degree, and therefore, they tearme themſelues Gentlemen foiſts, and ſo much diſdaine to be called cutpurſes, as the honeſt man that liues by his hand or occupation, in ſo much that the Foiſt refuſeth euen to weare a knife about him to cut his meat with al, leaſt he might be ſuſpected to growe into the nature of the Nippe, yet as I ſaid before is their ſubiect and haunt both alike, for their gaines lies by all places of reſort and aſſemblies, therfore their chiefe walks is Paules, Weſtminſter, the Exchaunge, Plaies, Beare garden, running at Tilt, the Lorde Maiors day, any feſtiual meetings, fraies, ſhotings, or great faires: to be ſhort, where ſo euer there is any extraordinarie reſort of people, there the Nippe and the Foiſt haue fitteſt opportunity to ſhewe their iugling agilitie. Commonly, when they ſpie a Farmer or Marchant, whome they ſuſpect to be well monied, they followe him hard vntill they ſee him drawe his purſe, then ſpying in what place he puts it vppe, the ſtall or the ſhadowe beeing with the Foiſt or Nip, meets the man at ſome ſtraight turne: iuſtles him ſo hard, that the man marueling, and perhaps quarreling with him, the whileſt the foiſt hath his purſe

and

and bids him fare-well. In Paules (especiallie in the tearme time) betweene ten and eleuen, then is their howers, and there they walke, and perhaps, if there be great preſſe, ſtrike a ſtroke in the middle walk, but that is vpon ſome plaine man that ſtands gazing about, hauing neuer ſeene the Church before but their chiefeſt time is at diuine ſeruice, when men deuoutly giuen doe go vp to heare either a ſermon, or els the harmonie of the Quære and the Organes: their the Nip and the Foiſt as deuoutly as if he were ſome zealous parſon, ſtandeth ſobrlie with his eies eleuated vnto heauen when his hand is either on the purſe or in the pocket, ſurueing euerie corner of it for coyne, then when the ſeruice is done and the people preſſe away, he thruſteth amidſt the throng, and there worketh his villanie. So likewiſe in the markets, they note how euery one putteth vp his purſe, and there either in a great preſſe, or while the partie is cheapning of meat, the Foiſt is in their pocket and the Nip hath the purſe by the ſtrings, or ſome times cuts out the bottome, for they haue ſtill their ſtals following them, whom thruſteth and iuſtleth him or her whome the Foiſt is about to draw: So likewiſe at plaies, the Nip ſtandeth there leaning like ſome mannerly gentleman againſt the doore as men go in, and there finding talke with ſome of his companions, eſpieth what euerie man hath in his purſe, and where, in what place, and in which ſleeue or pocket he puts the boung, and according to that ſo he worketh eyther where the thruſt is great within, or els as they come out at the doores: but ſuppoſe that the firſt is ſmoakt, and the man miſſeth his purſe, & apprehendeth him for it then ſtraight, he either conuaieth it to his fellow, or els dro-

peth

droppeth the bong, and with a great braue hee deſi-eth his accuſer: and though the purſe be found at his foote, yet becauſe he hath it not about him, hee comes not within compaſſe of life. Thus haue they their ſhifts for the law, and yet at laſt, ſo long the pitcher goeth to the broke that it commeth broken home, and ſo long the Foiſts put their villanie in practiſe, that weſt-ward they go, and there ſolemnely make a rehearſall ſermon at Tibourne. But againe, to their places of reſort, Weſtminſter Iuarie, that is their chiefeſt place that brings in their profite, the Tearme-time is their harueſt: and therefore, like prouident husband-men they take time while time ſerues, and make hay while the Sunne ſhines, following their clients, for they are at the Hall verie early and there they worke like bees, haunting euerie Court, as the Exchequer chamber, the Starre-chamber, the Kings-bench, the Common-pleas, and euerie place where the poore Client ſtandeth to heare his Lawyer handle his matter, for alaſſe the poore Countrey Gentleman or Farmer is ſo buſied with his cauſes, and hath his mind ſo full of cares to ſee his counſell and to plie his Attorney, that the leaſt thing in his thought is his purſe: but the Eagle-eied Foiſt or Nip he watcheth, and ſeeng the Client draw his purſe to pay ſome charges or fees neceſſa-rie for the Court, marketh where he putteth it, and then when he thruſteth into the throng, either to an-ſwere for himſelfe, or to ſtand by his Counſeller to put him in minde of his cauſe, the Foiſt drawes his pocket and leaues the poore client pennileſſe. This do they in all courts, and go diſguiſed like Seruing-men, wringing the ſimple people by this iugling ſubtelie, well might therefore the honorable & wor-

shipfull of those courts doe to take order from suche vilde and base minded cutpurses, that as the lawe hath prouided death for them if they be taken, so they might be rooted out especially from Westminster where the powre clients are vndone by such rogish catchers. It bootes not to tell their course at euerie remoue of her Maiestie when the people flock together, nor at Bartholmew faire, on the Queens day, at the Tilt-yard and at al other places of assemblie: for let this suffice, at any great presse of people or meeting, there the Foist and the Nippe is in his kingdome: Therefore let all men take this caueat, that when they walke abroad amid anie of the forenamed places or like assemblies, that they tak great care for their purse how they place it, and not leaue it careleste in their pockets or hoase, for the Foist is so nimble handed that hee exceeds the iugler for agilitie, and hath his legier de maine as perfectly: therfore an erquisite Foist must haue three properties that a good Surgion should haue, and that is an Eagles eie, a Ladies hand, and a Lyons heart, an Eagles eie to spie a purchase, to haue a quicke insight where the booty lies, and then a Lyons heart not to feare what the end will bee, and then a Ladies hand to be little and nimble, the better to diue into the pocket. These are the perfect properties of a Foist: but you must note that there be diuersities of this kind of people, for there be cittie Nips & countrey Nips, which haunt from faire to faire, and neuer come in London, vnlesse it be at Bartholmewe faire, or some other great and extraordinarie assemblies: Nowe there is a mortall hate betweene the Countrey Foist and the Cittie Foist, for if the citie Foist spie one of the connies in London, straight he

ſeekes by ſome meanes to ſmoake him, and ſo the Countrey Nip if he ſpie a Cittie Nip in any faire, then hee ſmoakes him ſtraight, and brings him in danger, if he flee not away the more ſpeedilie, beſide there be women Foiſts and women Nips, but the woman Foiſt is moſt daungerous, for commonlie there is ſome olde baud, or ſtoutfair ſtrumpet, who inueigleth either ſome ignorant man or ſome young youth to folly, ſhe hath ſtraight her hād in his poket, and ſo foiſts him of all that hee hath: but let all men take hēd of ſuch common harlots, who either ſit in the ſtreets in euenings, or els dwel in baudy houſes and are pliant to euery mans lure, ſuch are alwaies Foiſts and Pickepockets, and ſeeke the ſpoile of all ſuch as meddle with them, and in coſening of ſuch baſe minded leachers as giue thēſelues to ſuch lewd companie, are woorthy of what ſo euer befals, and ſometime they catch ſuch a Spaniſhp pip, that they haue no more hair on their head then on their nails. But leauing ſuch ſtrumpets to their ſoules confuſion and bodies correction in Bride-well: Againe, to our Nips and Foiſts, who haue a kind of fraternity or brother-hood among them, hauing a hall or place of meeting, where they conſer of waightie matters, touching their worke-manſhip, for they are prouident in that, euerye one of them hath ſome truſtie friend whom he calleth his treaſurer, and with him he lates vp ſome ratable portion, of euery purſe hee drawes, that when need requires, and he is brought in danger, he may haue money to make compoſition with the partie: But of late, there hath beene a great ſcourge fallen amongſt them, for now if a purſe bee drawen of any great vallew, ſtraight the partie maketh friends to ſome one or other of the Counſell or

other inferior hir Maiesties Iustices, and then they send out warraunts if they cannot learne who the Foist is, to the keepers of Newgate that they take vp all the Nips and Foists about the cittie, and let them lie there while the money be reanswered vnto the party, so that some pay three pound, nay fiue pound at a time according as the same losse did amount vnto, which doth greatly impouerishe their trade, and hinder their figging law. Therefore about such causes growes their meeting, for they haue a kinde of corporation, as hauing wardens of their company, and a hall: I remember their hall was once about Bushops gate, neere vnto fishers follie, but because it was a noted place, they haue remooued it to Kent-street, and as far as I can learne, it is kept at one Laurence Pickerinoges house, one that hath bene if he be not still a notable Foist. A man of good calling he is, and well allied by other in law to Bull the hangman, there keepe they their feasts and weekely meetinges, fit for their company. This haue I partlye set downe the nature of the Foist, and the Nip, with their speciall haunts, as a caueat to al estates to beware of such wicked persons, who are as preiudiciall to the Common-wealth as anie other faculty what soeuer, and although they be by the great discretion of the Iudges and Iustices dailie trust vp, yet still there springeth vppe young that grow in time to beare fruit fit for the gallowes: let then euery man be as carefull as possibly bee may, and by this caueat take heed of his purs, for the pray makes the theefe, and there and end

A mer-

A merry tale how a Miller had his purſe cut in Newgate market.

IT fortuned that a Nip and his ſtaul drinking at the three Tuns in Newgate market, ſitting in one of the roomes next to the ſtreete, they might perceiue wher a meale man ſtood ſelling of meale, and had a large bag by his ſide, where by coniecture there was ſome ſtore of money, the old Coole, the old cut purſe I mean, ſpying this, was delighted with the ſhew of ſo glorious an obiect, for a full purſe is as pleaſing to a Cut purſe eie, as the curious Phiſnomy of Venus was to the amorous God of war, and entring to a merry vaine as one that counted that purchaſe his owne, diſcouered it to the Nouice and bad him goe & nip it, the young toward ſcholler although perhaps he had ſtriken ſome few ſtroks before, yet ſeeing no great preſſe of people, and the meale-mans hande often vppon his bagge, as if hee had in times paſt ſmoakte ſome of their faculty, was halfe afraide and doubted of his owne experience and ſo refuſed to doe it. Away villaine ſaith the old Nippe, art thou fainte harted, belonges it to our trade to deſpaire? If thou wilt onely doe common worke, and not make experience of ſome harde matters to attempt, thou wilt neuer be maiſter of thine occupation, therefore try thy wits and doe it, at this the young ſtripling ſtalkes me out of the Tauern, and feeling if his Cuttle boung were glibbe and of a good edge, went to this meale-man to enter combate hand to hand with his purſe, but ſeeing the mealemans eye was ſtill abroade, and for want of other ſport that he plaied with his purſe, he was afraide to truſt eyther to his witte or Fortune, and there-

fore went backe againe without any act atchieued. How now saith the olde Nip what hast thou done, nothing quoth he, the knaue is so wary, that it is vnpossible to get any purchase there, for he stands plaing with his purse for want of other exercise. At this his fellow looks out and smiles, making this reply. And doest thou count it impossible to haue the meale-mans boung, lend me thy knife for mine is left at home, & thou shalt see me strike it straight, and I will shew thee a Method, how perhaps hereafter to doe the like after my example, and to make thee a good scholler, and therefore goe with me and doe as I shall instruct thee, begin but a fained quarrell, and when I giue thee a watche woord, then throwe flower in my face, and if I misse his purse let me be hanged for my labour, with that he gaue him certaine principles to obserue, and then paide for the wine and out they went together. As soon as they were come to the meale-man, the olde Nippe began to iest with the other about the Millers sacke, and the other replied as knauishlye, at last, the elder called the younger Roague, Roague thou Swaine, quoth hee, doest thou or darest thou dishonour mee with such a base title? And with that taking a whole hand full of meale out of the sacke, threw it full in the olde Nippes necke and his brest, and then ranne away. Hee being thus dusted with meale, intreated the meale man to wipe it out of his necke, and stoopte downe his head, the meale man laughing to see him so rayed and whited, was willing to shake off the meale, and the whilst, while hee was busie about that, the Nippe had stroken the purse and done his feate, and both courteously thanked the meale man and close-

ly

ly went away with his purchase. The poore man thinking little of this Cheate, began againe to play with his purse strinｇes, and suspected nothing till he had soulde a pecke of meale, and offered to change money, and then hee found his purse bottomlesse, which stroke such a colde quandary to his stomack, as if in a frosty morning hee had drunck a draught of small beere next his heart, hee began then to exclaime against such villaines, and called to minde how in shaking the dust out of the Gentlemans necke, he shake his money out of his purse, and so the poore meale man fetch a great sigh, knit vp his sacke and went sorowing home.

A kinde conceipt of a Foist performed in Paules.

WHile I was writing this discouery of foisting, & was desirous of any intelligence that might be giuen mee, a Gentleman a friend of mine, reported vnto me this pleasant tale, of a Foist, & as I well remember it grew to this effect. There walked in the middle walk a plain countrey farmar a man of good wealth, & that had a well lined purse, onely barely thrust vppe in a round slop which a crue of Foists hauing perceiued, ther harts were set on fire to haue it, and euery one had a fling at him but all in vaine, for he kept his hand close in his pocket, and his purse fast in his fist like a subtil churle, that either had bẽ forewarnd of Paules, or else had afore time smoakte some of that faculty, well how so euer, it was vnpossible to doe any good with him he was so wary. The Foists spying this, strained their wits to the highest string how to cõpasse this bourg, yet could not all their politicke conceipts fetch the farmar ouer, for iustle him, chat with him, offer to shake him by the hand, all would not serue to get his hand out of his pocket. At last one of the crue that for his skil might haue bin Doctorat in his mistery, amongst them all chose out a good Foist, one of a nimble hand & great agility, and said to the rest thus: Maisters it shal not be said such a base peasaunt shall slip away from such a crue of Gentlemen Foistes as wee are, and not haue his purse drawen, and therfore this time Ile play the Saule my selfe, and if I hitte him not home, count me for a bungler for euer, and so he left them and went to the farmar and walkt directly before him & nere him three or foure turnes, at last standing still

hee

he cryed alas honeſt man helpe me, I am not well, and with that ſuncke downe ſuddenly in a ſowne, the poꝛ Farmer ſæing a pꝛoper yong gentlemã (as he thought) fall dead afoꝛe him, ſtept to him, held him in his armes, rub'd him and chafte him: at this there gathered a greate multitude of people about him, and the whilſt the Foiſte dꝛewe the Farmers purſſe and awaye: by that the other thought the feate was done, he began to come ſomthing to himſelfe again, and ſo halfe ſtaggering, ſtumbled out of Poules, and went after the crue where they had appointed to mæte, and there boaſted of his wit and experience. The Farmer little ſuſpecting this villanye, thꝛuſt his hand into his pocket and miſt his purſſe, ſearcht foꝛ it, but lyning and ſhelles and all was gon, which made the Country man in a great maze, that he ſtood ſtill in a dump ſo long, that a gentleman perceiuing it aſked what he ayld: what aile I ſir quoth he, truely I am thinking how men may long as well as women, why doſt thou coniecture that honeſt man quoth he? marry ſir anſwers the Farmer, the gentlemã euen now that ſowned here I warrant him bꝛæds his wiues child, foꝛ the cauſe of his ſodain qualme that he fell downe deade grew of longing: the gentleman demaũded how he knew that, well inough ſir quoth he, and he hath his longing too, foꝛ the poꝛe man longed foꝛ my purſſe, and thankes be to God he hath it with him. At this all the hearers laught, but not ſo merrilye as the Foiſte and his fellowes, that then were ſharing his money.

A quaint conceite of a Cutler & a cutpurſſe.

A Nippe hauing by fortune loſt his Cuttle boung or hauing not one fit for his purpoſe, wente to a cunning Cutler to haue a newe made, and preſcribed the Cutler ſuch a method and forme to make his knife and the faſhion to be ſo ſtronge, giuing ſuch a charge of the fineneſs of the temper and well ſetting of the edge, that the Cutler wondred what the gentlemã would do with it, yet becauſe he offred ſo largely for the making of it, the Cutler was ſilent and made fewe queſtions onely he appointed him the time to come for it, and that was three daies after: Well, the time beeing expired, the Gentleman Nip came, and ſeeing his knife liked it paſſing well, and gaue him his money with aduantage. The Cutler deſirous to know to what vſe hee woulde put it, ſaide to the Cutpurſe thus, ſir quoth he I haue made many knines in my dayes, and yet I neuer ſawe any of this forme, faſhion, temper or edge, & therfore if without offence I pray you tell me how or to what will you vſe it? While thus he ſtood talking with the Nippe, he ſpying the purſſe in his apron, had cut it paſſing cunningly, and then hauing his purchaſe cloſe in his hand, made anſwer, in faith my frend to diſſemble is a folly, tis to cut a purſſe withall and I hope to haue good hanſell, you are a merry gentlemã quoth the Cutler, I tell true ſaid the Cutpurſſe and away he goes. No ſooner was he gone from the ſtalle, but there came an other and bought a knife and ſhould haue ſingle money againe, the Cutler thinking to put his hand in his bagge, thruſt it quight through at the bottom, all his money was gone, & the purſſe

cut,

cut, perceiuing this and remembring how the man praide he might haue good hansell, he fetcht a great sigh and saide, now I see he that makes a snare, first falles into it himselfe: I made a knife to cut other mens purses and mine is the first hansell, well reuenge is fallen vpon me, but I hope the roape will fall vpon him, and so he smothed vp the matter to himselfe, least men should laugh at his strange fortune.

The discouery of the Lifting Law.

THe Lift, is he that stealeth or prowleth any Plate, Iuells, boultes of Satten, Veluet, or such parcels from any place by a slight cõueyance vnder his cloke, or so secretly that it may not be espyed: of Lifts there be diuers kindes as their natures be different, some base roges that lift when they come into Alehouses quart potts, platters, clokes, swords, or any such paltrie trash which commonly is called pilfering or petulaccrie, for vnder the cullour of spending two or three pots of ale, they lift awaye any thing that commeth within the compasse of their reache, hauing a fine & nimble agilitie of the hand as the Foist had: these are the common and rascall sortes of Lifts, but the higher degrees and gentlemen Lifts haue to the performance of their faculty three parties of necessitie. the Lift, the Warker and the Santar: the Lift attired in the forme of a ciuell Country gentleman, comes with the Warker into some Mercers shop, Haberdashers, Goldsmiths, or any such place where any particular parcels of worth are to be conuaid, and there he calles to see a boulte of Satten, Veluet or any such commoditie, and not liking the pyle, culler or bracke, he calles for more, and the whiles he be-

gins to resolue which of them most fitly may be lifted, and what Garbage (for so he calles the goods stolne) may be most easily conuaid, then he calles to the Mercers man and sayes, sirrha reach me that peece of veluet or sattē, or that Juel, chaine or peece of Plate, and whilst the fellow turnes his backe, he commits his Garbage to the Parker: for note, the Lift is without his cloke, in his dublet & hose to auoide the more suspicion: the Parker which is the receiuer of the Lifts luggage, giues a winke to the Santar that walkes before the windowe and then the Santar going by in great hast, the Parker cals him & saies, sir a worde with you, I haue a message to do vnto you from a very frend of yours, and the errand is of some importaunce, truely sir saies the Santar I haue very vrgent busines in hand and as at this time I cannot staye, but one worde and no more saies the Parker, and then he deliuers him whatsoeuer the Lift hath conuaide vnto him, and then the Santar goes his way, who neuer came within the shop, and is a man vnknone to them all: suppose he is smoakte and his liftinge is lookt into, then are they vpon their pantophles, because there is nothing found about them: they defie the world for their honestie, because they be as dishonest as any in the world, and sweare as God shall iudge thē they neuer sawe the parcell lost, but Oathes with them are like winde out of a bellowes, which being cole kindleth fier: so their vowes are without conscience and so they call for reuenge: Therefore let this be a caueat to all occupations, sciences and misteryes, that they beware of the gentleman Lift, and to haue an eye to such as cheapen their wares and not when they call to se new stuffe to leaue the olde behinde them, for the fingers of Lifts are

fourmed

fourmed of Adamant, though they touche not yet they haue vertue attractiue to drawe any pelfe to them as the Adamant dooth the Iron. But yet these Lifts haue a subtill shift to blinde the worlde for this close kind of cosonage they haue when they want money, one of them apparelles him selfe like a Country Farmer, & with a Memorandū drawen in some legall forme, comes to the chamber of some Counsayler or Sargeant at Law with his Marker and his Sautar, and there telles the Lawyer his case and desires his Counsaile, the whilest the Marker and the Sautar lay the platforme for any Rapier, dagger, cloake, gowne or any other parcell of worth that is in the withdrawing or vtter chāber, and assone as they haue they goe their way: then when the Lawyer hath giuen his opinio of the case the Lift requires, then he puts in some demurre or blinde, and saies he will haue his cause better discouered and then he will come to his worship againe, so taking his leaue without his ten shillings fee, he goes his waies to share what his companyons had gotten: the like method they vse with Scriueners, for comming by the shop and seeing any Garbage worth the lifting on, starteth in to haue an Obligation or Bill made in haste, and while the Scriuener is busie, the Lift bringeth the Marker to the blow, and so the luggage is carried away. Now, these Lifts haue their speciall receiuers of their stolne goods, which are two sundrye parties, either some notorious Bawdes in whose houses they lye, and they kéep commonly tapping houses and haue yong trugges in their house which are consorters to these Lifts and loue them so déere, that they neuer leaue them till they come to the gallowes, or else they be Brokers, a kind of idle sort of liuers as pernitious

as the Lift, for they receiue at their handes whatsoeuer Garbage is conuayed, be it linnen, wollen, plate, Iuells, and this they do by a bill of saile, making the bill in the name of John a Nokes or John a Styles, so that they shadow the Lift & yet keepe them selues without the danger of the law. Thus are these Brokers and Bawdes as it were, efficient causes of the Lifters villany, for were it not their alluring spaches and their secret consealings, the Lift for wante of receiuers should be faine to take a new course of life, or else be continually driuen into great extreames for selling his Garbage, and thus much braefely for the nature of the Lift.

The discouery of the Courbing Law.

THe Courber, which the common people call the Hooker, is he that with a Curbe (as they tearme it) or hooke, do pull out of a windowe any loose linnen cloth, apparel or else any other houlhold stuffe what soeuer, which stolne parcells, they in their Art call snappinges: to the performance of this law there be required, onely two persons, the Courber and the Warpe: the Courber his office is to spye in the day time fit places where his trade may be practised at night, and comming to any window if it be ope, then he hath his purpose if shut, then growing into the nature of the blacke Art, hath his trickers, which are engines of Iron so cunningly wrought, that he will cut a barr of Iron in two with then so easilye, that scarcelye shall the standers by heare him: then when he hath the window open and spyes any fat snappings worth the Curbing, then streight he sets the Warp to watch, who hath a long cloak to couer whatsoeuer he gets,

then

then doth the other thrust in a long hoke some nine foote in length (which he calleth a Curbe) that hath at the end a croke with three tynes turned contrary so that tis vnpossible to misse if there be anye snappinges abroade: Now this longe hoke they call a Curbe, and because you shall not wonder how they carry it for being espyed, know this that it is made with ioyntes like an angle rod, and can be conuaid into the forme of a truncheon & worne in the hand like a walking staffe, vntill they come to their purpose and then they let it out at the length and hoke or curbe what soeuer is lose and within the reache, and then he conueyes it to the Warpe, and from thence (as they list) their snappinges goes to the Broker or to the Bawd, and there they haue as ready money for it as Merchants haue for their ware in the Exchaunge: beside, there is a Dyuer which is in the very nature of the Courber, for as he puts in a hoke, so the other puts in at the windowe some little figging boy who playes his parte notably, and perhaps the youth is so well instructed that he is a scholler in the blacke Arte, and can pick a locke if it be not to crosse warded, and deliuer to the Dyuer what snappinges he findes in the chamber. Thus you heare what the Courber doth and the Dyuer, and what inconuenience growes to many by their base villanyes: therefore I do wish all men seruants and maids, to be carefull for their Masters commodities, and to leaue no lose endes abroade, especially in chambers where windowes open to the strete, least the Courber take them as snappinges, and conuaye them to the couseninge Broker.

Let this suffise, and now I will recreate your wits with a merry Tale or two.

Of a

Of a Courber, & how cũningly he was taken.

IT fortuned of late that a Courber & his Warpe went walking in the dead of the night to spy out some window open for their purpose, & by chance came by a Noble mans house about London and saw the windowe of the porters lodge open, and looking in, spyed fatte snappings and bad his Warpe watch carefully for there would be purchase, & with that tok his Courb and thrust it into the chamber, and the Porter lying in his bed was awake & sawe all, and so was his bedfellow that was yeoman of the wine seller, the Porter stole out of his bed to marke what would be doone, and the firste snapping the Courber light on, was his Liuerye coate, as he was drawing it to the windowe, the Porter easilye lifted it off and so the Courber drew his hook in vaine, the whilste his bedfellow stole out of the chamber and rayled vp two or three more and went about to take them, but still the rogue he plyed his busines and lighted on a gowne that he vsed to sit in in the Porters lodge, and warily drew it, but when it came at the windowe, the Porter drew it off so lightly that the hooker perceiued it not: then when he saw his Courbe would take no holde, he swore and chafte and tolde the Warp he had holde of two good snappes and yet mist them both and that the fault was in his Courb, then he fell to sharping and hammering of the hook to make it kæp better hold, and in againe he thrusts it and lightes vpon a paire of büffe hose, but when he had drawen them to the windowe the Porter toke them off againe, which made the Courber almost mad, & swore he thought the deuill was abrode to night he had such hard for-

tune:

tune: naye sayes the yeoman of the seller, there is thre abroade, and we are come to fetche you and your hookes to hell: so they apprehended these base rogues & carried them into the Porters lodge and made that their prison. In the morning a crue of Gentlemen in the house, satte for Judges (in that they would not trouble their Lord with such filthy Caterpillers) and by them they were found guiltie, and condemned to abide forty blowes a peace with a bastinado, which they had sollempnly paide, and so went away without any further damage.

Of the subtilty of a Curber in coosoning a Maide.

A Merrye iest and a subtile, was reported to me of a cunning Courber, who had apparreld him selfe maruelous braue, like some good welfauoured yong Gentleman, and in stead of a man had his Warpe to waite vpon him: this smothe faced rogue comes into Poze Falds, and caused his man to carry a pottell of Ipocras vnder his cloak, and there had learnd out amongst others that was dzying of clothes, of a very well fauoured maide that was there with her Flaskit of linnen. what her Maister was, where she dwelt, and what her name: hauing gotten this intelligẽce, to this maide he goes. and courteously salutes her, and after some prittye chatte, tels her how he saw her sundzy times at her Maisters doze, and was so besotted with her beauty, that he had made inquiry what her qualities were, which by the neighbours he generally heard to be so vertuous, that his desire was the moze inflamed, and therevpon in signe of good will, and in further acquaintance h-

had brought her a pottle of Ipocras: the maid séeing him a good proper man, toke it very kindelye, and thankt him, and so they dronke the Wine, and after a little Louers prattle, for that time they parted.

The Maids hart was set on fire, that a Gentleman was become a suter vnto her, and she began to think better of her selfe then euer she did before, and wered so proud that her other suters were counted too base for her, and there might be none welcome but this new come gentleman her louer. Wel, diuerse times they appointed meetings, that they grew very familiar, and he oftentimes would come to her Maisters house, when all but she and her fellow maides were a bed so that he and the Warpe his man did almost know euerye corner of the house: It fortuned that so long he dallied, that at length he meant earnest, but not to marrye the Maide whatsoeuer he had done els, and comming into the Fældes to her on a washing daye, sawe a mightie deale of fine Linnen worth twenty pound as he coniectured: whereupon he thought this night to set downe his rest, and therefore he was very pleasant with his Louer, and tolde her that that night after her Maister and Mistris were to bed, he would come and bring a bottell of Sacke with him and drinke with her: the maide glad at these newes, promised to sit vp for him and so they parted: till about tenne a clock at night, when he came and brought his man with him, and one other Courber with his toles, who should stand without the doores. To be brief, welcome he came, and so welcome as a man might be to a maide: he that had more minde to spie the clothes, then to

loke

loke on her fauour, at last perceiued them in a Par lour that stood to the street ward, and there would the maid haue had him sit, no sweating quoth he, it is too nere the strete, we can neither laugh nor be mery but euery one that passeth by must heare vs: vpon that they remoued into another roome, and pleasaut they were, and tippled the Sacke round, till all was out, and the Gentleman swore that he would haue another pottle, and so sent his man, who tolde the other Courber that stode without, where the window was he should worke at, & away goes he for more Sacke and brinｇes it verye orderly, and then to their cuppes they fall againe, while the Courber without had not left one ragge of Linnen behinde. Late it grew, and the morning began to war graye, and away goes this Courber and his man, leauing the maid very pleasant with his flattering promises vntill such time as poore soule she went into the Parlor, and mist all her Maisters Linnen, then what a sorrowfull hart she had, I refer to them that haue graued at the like losse.

The Discouerie of the Blacke Art.

THe Black Arte is picking of Lockes, and to this busie trade two persons are required, the Charme and the Stand, the Charm is he that doth the feate, and the Stand is he that watcheth: There be more that belong to the burglary for conuaying away the goods, but only two are imployde about the lock: the Charme hath many keyes and wrests, which they call picklocks, and for euery sundry fashion they haue a sundry term,

but I am ignorant of their wordes of art, and therfore I omit them, onely this, they haue such cunning in opening a Lock, that they will vndo the hardest Lock though neuer so weil warded. euen while a man may turne his backe, some haue their instruements from Italie made of Steele, some are made heere by Smiths, that are partakers in their villanous occupations: but howsoeuer, well may it be called the blacke Art, for the Deuil cannot do better then they in their facultie. I once saue the experience of it my selfe, for being in the Counter vpon a commaundement, there came in a famous fellow in the blacke art, as strong in that qualitye as Samson: The partie now is dead, and by fortune died in his bed, I hering that he was a charm began to enter familiaritie with him, and to haue an insight into his art, after some acquaintance he tolde me much, and one day being in my Chamber I shewed him my Deske, and alist him if he could pick that little lock that was so well warded, and so little as I thought for any of his gunnes. Why sir saies he, I am so experienced in the blacke Art, that if I do but blowe vpon a Lock it shall fly opē, and therfore let me come to your Deske, and doo but turne fiue times about, and you shall see my cunning, with that I did as he bad me, and ere I had turned fiue times, his hand was rifling in my Deske verye orderlye, I wondred at it, and thought verily that the Deuill and his Dam was in his fingers, much discommodity growes by this black Art in shops and noble mens houses for their plate therefore are they most seuerely to be lookt in to by the honourable and worshipfull of England, and to end this discourse as pleasantly as the rest,

I will

I wil rehearse you a true tale done by a most worshipfull Knight in Lancashire, against a Tinker that professed the Black Art.

A true and merry Tale of a Knight, and a Tinker that was a pick-locke.

NOt far off from Bolton in the Moores, there dwelled an auncient Knight, who for curtesie and hospitalitie was famous in those partes: diuers of his Tenantes making repaire to his house, offred diuers complaintes to him how their lockes were pickt in the night and diuers of them vtterly vndon by that meanes, and who it should be they could not tell, onely they suspected a Tinker that went about the Country and in all places did spend verye lauishlye: the Knight willing, heard what they exhibited, and promised both redresse and reuenge if he or they could learne out the man. It chanced not long after their complaintes, but this roilye Tinker (so experte in the black arte) came by the house of this Knight, as the olde gentleman was walking afore the gate and cryed for worke, the Knight straight conjecturing this should be that famous rogue that did so much hurt to his Tenantes, cald in and askt if they had any worke for the Tinker, the Cooke aunswered there was three or foure old Kettles to mend, come in Tinker, so this fellowe came in, laide downe his budget and fell to his worke, a black Jacke of beare for this Tinker sayes the Knight, I know tinkers haue dyre soules: the Tinker he was pleasant and thankt him humblye, the Knight sate down by him and fell a ransacking his budget, and asked where-

fore this tole serued and wherfore that, the tinker tolde him all, at last as he tumbled amongst his old brasse the Knight spyed three or fower bunches of pick-lockes, he turnd them ouer quickly as though he had not seene them and said, well tinker I warrant thou art a passing cunning fellow & well skild in thine occupacion by the store of toles thou hast in thy budget: In faith if it please your worship quoth he, I am thankes be to God my crafts master: I, so much I perceiue that thou art a passing cunning fellowe quoth the Knight, therefore let vs haue a fresh Jacke of bare and that of the best and strongest for the Tinker: thus he past away the time pleasantlye, and when he had done his worke he asked what he would haue for his paines? but two shillinges of your worshipp quoth the Tinker, two shillinges sayes the Knight, alas Tinker it is to little, for I see by thy toles thou art a passing cunning workeman, holde there is two shillinges come in shalt drinke a cup of wine before thou goest but I pray thee tell me which way trauailest thou: faith sir quoth the Tinker all is one to me: I am not much out of my way whersoeuer I goe, but now I am going to Lancaster: I praye thee Tinker then quoth the Knight carry me a Letter to the Jaylor, for I sent in a fellon thither the other day and I would send word to the Jaylor he should take no bale for him, marry that I will in most dutifull maner quoth he and much more for your Worship then that: giue him a cup of wine quoth the Knight and sirrha (speaking to his Clarke) make a Letter to the Jaylor, but then he whisperd to him and bad him make a mittimus to send the Tinker to prison, the Clarke answered he knewe not his name, Ile

make

make him tell it thee him selfe sayes the Knight and therefore fall you to your pen: the Clarke began to write his mittimus, and the Knight began to aske what Countryman he was where he dwelt & what was his name, the Tinker tolde him all, and the Clarke set it in with this prouiso to the Jaylor that he should keep him fast bolted or else he would break awaye. Assoone as the mittimus was made, sealed and subscribed in forme of a Letter, the Knight took it and deliuered it to the Tinker and said, giue this to the cheefe Jaylor of Lancaster & here's two shillings more for thy labour, so the Tincker tooke the Letter and the money and with many a cap & knee thanked the olde Knight and departed: and made haste til he came at Lancaster, and staid not in the town so much as to taste one cup of nappy ale, before he came at the Jailor, and to him very briskly he deliuered his letter, the iailor took it and read it and smilde a good, and said tinker thou art welcom for such a Knights sake, he bids me giue thee ẏ best entertainement I may, I sir quoth the tincker the Knight loues me wel, but I pray you hath ẏ courteous gentlemã remembred such a poor man as I? I marry doth he tincker, and therefore sirra q̃. he to one of his men, take the tinker in ẏ lowest ward clap a strong pair of bolts on his heeles, and a basil of 28. pound weight, and then sirra see if your pick locks wil serue the turne to bale you hence? at this the tinker was blank, but yet he thouhgt the iailor had but iested, but whẽ he heard the Mittimus, his hart was colde, and had not a word to say his conscience accused, and there he lay while the next sessions, and was hangd at Lancaster, and all his skil in the black art could not serue him.

FINIS.